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**Predicting bankruptcy among Polish companies using logistic regression and neural network**

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INTRODUCTION

Bankruptcies among companies were and still are widely discussed because of their impact on the economy. In fact bankruptcies have both good and bad influence on the macroeconomic situation – on one hand its’ occurrences result in loss of jobs and create market uncertainty (especially when bigger company defaults) but on the other hand it is an instrument of clearing the market from redundant firms. Although it may be useful, most of the market participants would rather know when certain company might “go down”. Focused efforts by economists and statisticians, that began in the thirties, effected in variety of tools designed to work as a precautionary mechanisms. However, prediction accuracy of these tools, especially econometric models, is often questioned. Considering Poland, most of the approaches from literature used to predict company bankruptcy are based on the discriminant analysis (such as Altman’s model) and logistic regression (such as Ohlson “O-score”). Also data used in those examples is not sampled – it is mainly based on finding every existing bankrupt company in the population and randomly attaching same number of healthy companies.

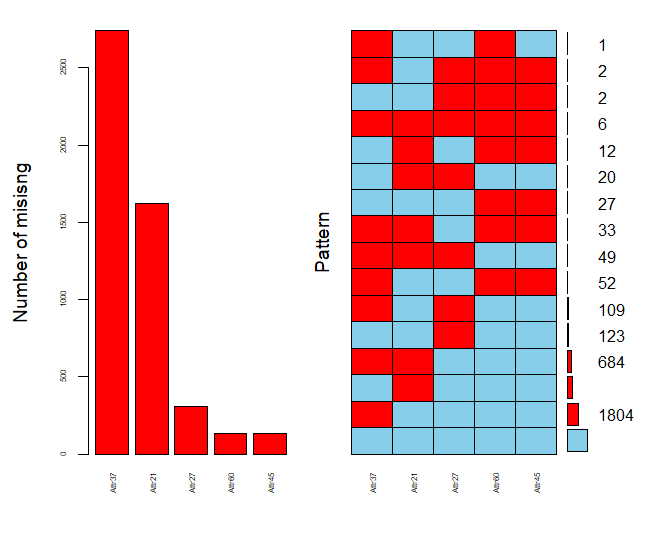
Main goal of our paper is to determine whether it is possible to create prediction model that gives reasonable company bankruptcy predictions on unbalanced data (in which bankrupt companies make only 3% of the whole dataset – as it is far more realistic scenario) in great advance (5 years prior to bankruptcy). Afterwards we try to compare it to model 1 year prior to default. If models appear to be applicable then we want to examine which accounting variables are the main determinants of these bankruptcies (and whether these determinants differ between models).

SECTION I

Data which we used comes from a polish bankruptcies dataset on UCI Machine Learning Repository. Firstly we analyzed data for 1st year of forecasting period and therefore defaults mean that company default 5 years from that point. All of the basic 64 variables are transformed accounting data and various financial indicators (e.g. RoA, RoE, etc.). There were initially 7027 observations including 271 defaults which make for ~3.5% of the dataset.

Firstly we analyzed how many missing data are there in the set. Some variables were more prone to have NA’s but overall 3833 observations were not complete (including at least one missing variable). Number of missing for 5 most uncomplete variables are seen on the Figure 1.

Figure 1 - Variables with the most missing data

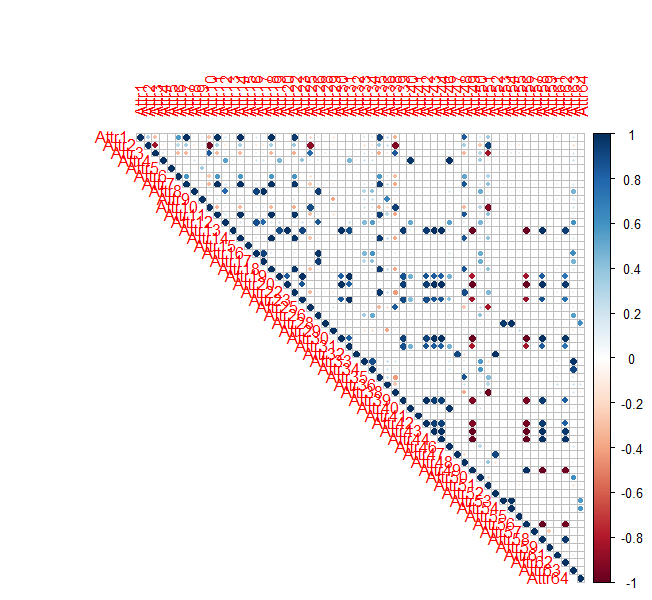


Wanting to retain most possible information while removing variables with unacceptable ratio of missing data, we introduced 5 factor variables indicating that there were missing data:

Subsequently we omitted columns with over 3% missing observations from further analysis. Since most of the missing came from the same observations we removed all of the (around 200 observations). Having in mind that retaining as much defaults as possible is crucial we find out that there are still around 3.5% of defaults. For some of the observations for which we already had the factor variable we decided to replace NA with median from the dataset (because they were single cases).

Next we analyzed correlation between variables. Correlation matrix can be seen on Figure 2.

Figure 2 - Correlation matrix for variables before removals

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It can be seen that there are a lot of highly correlated variables. We filtered all the variables that are correlated with at least 2 other with correlation higher than 90% . Unfortunately it resulted in half of the variables being gone. Fortunately though it meant that there were almost no high correlated data and no missing observations at all. Correlation matrix for the cleaned data can be seen on Figure 3.

Figure 3 - Correlation matrix after removals

Obraz zawierający tekst, mapa

Opis wygenerowany automatycznie

Correlations look much better, although some of them are still high. As we will be trying to retain as much variables as possible we will add those correlated variables as interactions when building model.

Further problem lies in the distribution of variables – there are A LOT of outliers in the data. With first estimations combined problems of high correlation and very high variance of most of the variables resulted in complete separation and Hauck Donner effect – instabilitiy of estimation in logisitc regression. To confront that problem we decided to replace some of the outliers with other values:

Therefore we are left with 4254 observations, while still retaining same percantage of defaults in dataset.

